



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,492	12/04/2001	Rango Dietrich	24826	6447
34375 7590 12/08/2009 NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
SHEIKH, HUMERA N				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1615				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/08/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,492

Applicant(s)

DIETRICH ET AL.

Examiner

Humera N. Sheikh

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 13, 14, 18-20, 33-41, 44, 50-55, 57, 58 and 60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 13, 14, 18-20, 33-41, 44, 50-55, 57, 58 and 60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Application

Receipt of the Response after Non-Final Office Action and Applicant's Arguments/Remarks all filed 08/18/09 is acknowledged.

Claims 11, 13, 14, 18-20, 33-41, 44, 50-55, 57, 58 and 60 are pending in this action. No amendments to the claims have been made herein. Claims 1-10, 12, 15-17, 21-32, 42, 43, 45-49, 56, 59, 61 & 62 have previously been cancelled. Claims 11, 13, 14, 18-20, 33-41, 44, 50-55, 57, 58 and 60 remain rejected.

* * * * *

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 11, 13, 14, 18-20, 33-41, 44, 50-55, 57, 58 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because: (1) the specification, particularly Example 12, while being enabling for pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate does not reasonably provide enablement and support for the group of active agents presented in instant claim 11. Claim 11, lines 7-12 recites actives generically and concludes with actives "in the form of a hydrate". Applicant's arguments have been considered, but were not persuasive. Specifically Applicant now directs attention to Example 12 as supporting the generic scope of the claims presented since this example does not have an amine nor polymer. Admittedly, a review of this formulation example does not have the

stearylamine or the polymer suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner notes that the examples at pages 14-17, require the inclusion of a stearylamine and a polymer in addition to the fatty alcohol, and does not reasonably provide enablement for the generic "fatty alcohol" *without* inclusion of the stearylamine and polymer. However, Example 12 at page 15 establishes that the only "hydrate" that Applicants can support is the pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate and not 'any and all hydrates', nor 'any and all imidazoles' including those that are substituted. Example 12 cannot support such a generic concept of the use of various actives in various forms. The specification Example 12 evidences that this is the only example that is capable of use in the absence of a stearylamine and polymer (i.e., povidone) and has only been shown to be used with pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate, and no other active ingredient. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with the instantly presented claims; (2) Example 12 while being enabling for "solidified drops" is not reasonably enabled for a "microsphere" as instantly claimed herein. The term "microsphere" connotes a specific size limitation not envisioned by the words "solids" as recited in the working examples. One of ordinary skill in the art has no guidance from the instant specification as to how to formulate a microsphere using the required combinations of ingredients in suitable proportions. The subsequent formulation examples do not use pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate in any combination in the production of a dosage delivery in microsphere form. Applicant's claims should be amended to reflect incorporation of a "pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate" as the particular hydrate employed, in order to render the scope of the claims enabling in the absence of the recitation of a stearylamine and a polymer.

* * * * *

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 08/18/09 have been fully considered but were not found to be persuasive.

▪ **35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection:**

Applicant's arguments, see Response pages 2-7, filed 08/18/09, with respect to the 112, first paragraph rejection have been fully considered but were not persuasive. The Examiner refers to the analysis given in the previous office action as the explicit reasons for maintaining the 112, first paragraph rejection (see detailed discussion above). No additional arguments regarding the working examples including Example 12 have been presented. Applicant submits that example 12 would support the scope of the claims which include distinct reactive compounds, chiral compounds, pure enantiomers, and mixtures thereof, in any mixing ratio, and in the forms of bases, salts and hydrates. It is the position of the Examiner that Example 12 would merely be an invitation for further experimentation by one of ordinary skill in the art, and would not be suggestive of the diverse scope as instantly claimed.

The Examiner acknowledges that MPEP 708.02 permits this application to be taken up as special. Hence upon the filing of a proper Notice of Appeal and Brief, the Examiner will consider the application special. MPEP 708.02 also permits an application to be made special upon filing.

* * * * *

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

--No claims are allowed at this time.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Humera N. Sheikh whose telephone number is (571) 272-0604. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday during regular business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert A. Wax, can be reached on (571) 272-0623. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Humera N. Sheikh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1615

hns

December 5, 2009

Application/Control Number: 09/980,492
Art Unit: 1615

Page 7